

Strategy: Teen Pregnancy Prevention Task Force

Provide an array of prevention programs and services to middle and high school students and their parents that will reduce teen pregnancy, decrease STDs and HIV, and eliminate the risk of violence and/or exploitation.

Target Population:

Fifth to Eighth Grade Students; Teens and Their Parents

Benchmark Objectives:

- Increase the number of youth who receive evidence-based teen pregnancy prevention programs with baseline and goal data to be determined during FY 2014.
- Decrease the teen pregnancy rate among female ages 15 to 17 from 53.2 per 1000 in 2009 to 47.8 per 1000 by 2017.
- Decrease the number of births among females ages 10 to 14 from 3 in 2009 to zero by 2017.

Programs:

Mentor Programs/Recruitment

Mentoring Programs for Elementary, Middle and High School Students are coordinated through Cartersville-Bartow Chamber of Commerce, Cartersville-Goodwill Center, Boys and Girls Club, Hands of Christ, and Project COPE-Etowah Housing Authority.

Afterschool Programs

Local organizations provide opportunities for teens to discuss topics including healthy relationships and conflict resolution during organized afterschool programs. Programs include: Girl Talk at Cartersville Middle School, Hand of Christ Ministry, GEMS (Girls Encountering and Maintaining Success), Boys and Girls Club, and Etowah Housing Authority.

Bartow County Resource Directory

Bartow Collaborative facilitates the annual update, reprint, and distribution of community Resource Directory to service providers.

Bartow Family Resources

Women and families receive fellowship, support, education and resources through the Crisis Pregnancy Center, Mentorship, and Adoption Support Program, and the Relationship Center.

Bartow Teen Pregnancy Prevention Task Force

The Task Force focuses on changing behaviors to reduce teen pregnancy, STD and HIV infection by overseeing curriculum development and implementation within the school system, Juvenile Court System, and community. Additionally, multiple workshops and presentations including Sex Talks, WAIT (Why Am I Tempted), DIALOGUES, Making A Difference, Reducing the Risks, Relationship Smarts Plus, and Uncovering the Truth about Pornography are available for teens and their parents. Volunteers and staff offer training opportunities. Task Force members are involved with recruitment and retention of additional members, leadership and advocacy training; leading youth focus groups, interviews, and activities; co-facilitating youth workshops, Teen Forum/Panel Discussion; and assisting, fundraising and grant applications.

Bartow Teen Resource Center

Activities include health education programs, service learning and life skills classes, relationship classes, sexually transmitted disease education, sex education classes, parent communications, and the youth action committee. The Center also coordinates Teen Forums, Panel Discussions, and Public Awareness Campaigns, as well as sponsors participants to attend the Georgia Teen Institute Summit.

Bartow Youth Action Team

Students representing Adairsville High, Cass High, Woodland High and Cartersville High focus on reaching other students in Bartow County and challenging them to make wise decisions when it comes to potentially "risky" behaviors. The students are involved in the assessment, evaluation and implementation of teen pregnancy prevention and alcohol misuse campaigns and activities.

Communication Hub

The Bartow Collaborative serves as a communication hub for local agencies and organizations to share news, trainings, events, fundraisers, volunteer opportunities and donations needs through weekly eblast and monthly meetings.

Data Tracking System

Strategy Team Leaders provide quarterly reports and input to Bartow Collaborative describing activities such as

number of youth served, number of back packs delivered, number of programs provided, etc.

Faith-Based Partnerships

Strategy team assesses faith-based organizations and helps strengthen existing partnerships for the purposes of expanding educational information on healthy dating relationships, teen pregnancy, and STD/HIV prevention.

Faith-Based Sex Education Program

Teen Pregnancy Prevention Task Force, in collaboration GCAPP and local churches are planning training sessions in an effort to implement evidence-based sex education curriculum within the faith community. Created by God and True Love Waits are among programs being discussed.

Mother/Daughter and Father/Son Puberty Talks

Annual forums are presented in collaboration with local ob/gyn and medical providers.

School-Based Sex Education

Teen Pregnancy Prevention Task Force, in collaboration with the Bartow Teen Resource Center, GCAP, and Bartow County School System offers "Making a Difference" and WAIT abstinence only programs. "Choosing the Best" abstinence only is taught by the school system.

School-Based Teen Pregnancy Prevention Curricula

Strategy Team will assess "Making a Difference" pilot program offered at South Central Middle School for the purpose of proposing new county-wide sex education curriculum

Teen Pregnancy STD & HIV Prevention Initiatives

Prevention workshops and conversations presented to teens and their parents including Sex Talks, DIALOGUES, Making A Difference, Reducing the Risks, Relationship Smarts Plus, Summer Teen Series, Teen Forum/Panel Discussion, Train-the-Trainer Workshops, Teen Pregnancy Prevention Symposium, and Public Awareness Campaigns. Programs focus on abstinence education, healthy relationships, conflict resolution, and substance abuse prevention.